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Notes for Community Leaders
This book also contains various 'Notes for Community Leaders' which are to be found at intervals. They are placed so as to ensure that they will not easily be overlooked (as introductory material often is). These 'Notes' contain suggestions for making the liturgy ever more of a community celebration.

These special pages cover the following topics:
1 Sharing roles with others makes the liturgy beautiful (p.10)
2 About introductions to the readings (p.11)
3 A group writes the introduction to a reading (p.278)
4 What to avoid in introductions (p.279)
5 About the response after the reading (p.456)
6 The Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation (p.457)
7 How can people's daily experience flow into our Sunday worship? (p.532)
8 Lay ministry is not only a liturgical task (p.533)

We should like to encourage local readers to make up their own introduction to the Sunday readings. This book gives just one example of how this might be done. If local situations are reflected in the introduction, it will be so very much easier for the congregation to gain an insight into the meaning of the readings and to receive light for their lives.

Simplicity, scientific exegesis, and Sunday liturgy
The introductions in this lectionary avoid theological language. They attempt to express the fruits of exegesis in simple language, in order to meet people where they are. Our principle was that the introductions should help the faithful to 'open up' to the message, arousing interest so that they are able to listen more attentively to God's word.

In the drafting of texts, the simplicity of language, the choice of examples, and in the illustrations, Third World conditions have been preferred whenever a choice has had to be made. The book has grown out of the work of the Lumko Pastoral Institute in a Third World situation, and it is an attempt to meet real needs, particularly in situations where lay ministers may be conducting the Sunday service on their own. This simplicity and directness should commend the introductions also to those in more developed areas who are charged with preparing the readings for Sunday worship.

These introductions are not meant to take the place of deeper Bible study, which is to be heartily encouraged. A great variety of commentaries and scripture guides are available for group study and other purposes.

We hope and pray that this *Sunday Reader's Lectionary* will help congregations to gain true mental and spiritual 'access to sacred scripture' as called for by the Fathers of Vatican II (*Dei Verbum* 22).

O. Hirmer and F. Lobinger
Lumko Missiological Institute

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The Sunday reader's lectionary : for lay ministers

by Hirmer, Oswald

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